

TIGER GOLD

Home Away From Home



“Going to the new dorm was like going from a Motel 6 to a Hilton.”

I was a boarder for a year in the 8th grade. It was my first time away from home and I didn't care for it in the beginning. I wanted to go home. After a few weeks, though, it was fun. If you had good grades and no detentions you could go

home on a Friday and come back on a Sunday night.

For the first half of year I was in the old dorm on the third floor where there were 48 students in a barracks setting. Our desks were in front of the bed. There were no showers on 3rd floor so we had to walk down to the first floor. In the old dorm we kept our clothes in a metal locker like the ones in the gym. We did have a ping pong table, pool table and popcorn machine in the middle of the room.

There was no air conditioning and heat was provided by steam radiators. I remember that we were awakened every morning by Jesse Truax, who seemed to be twice as big as us.

For the second half of the year we were moved into the new dorm where we were the first class to use it. In the new dorm there were two guys to a room. I was on the second floor and could look out over the levee and see the ships in the river. Going to the new dorm was like going from a Motel 6 to a Hilton.

Michael Strohmeyer

“Day after day I made new friends, and the ones from Central and South America helped me to translate.”

Coming from Guatemala as a 16 year old, it was the first time I was far away from my family and home and I didn't know English. I felt lonely, it seemed like I was in prison (I never have been!) After meeting and making friends everything changed.

Day after day I made new friends, and the ones from Central and South America helped me to translate. The most difficult time I had was in class., I didn't understand anything for the first four or six months.

In the dormitories I made many friends from different places in North, Central and South America. With some I'm still in communication. I entered Holy Cross in 1968, more than 50 years ago. After watching the video of Hurricane Katrina, I cried from sadness. (*The video mentioned is the YouTube Video by The Proper People: Abandoned School Destroyed by Hurricane Katrina*) They only showed the old administration building, but I felt very sorry.



Oscar Gomez is in the front row all the way to the left

In the dormitory we got up at 6:00 am, dressed in comfortable clothes and went to breakfast at the cafeteria. When we returned we had to tidy up our desks, clothes locker and we had to make the bed. We entered classes at 8:00 am, had lunch in the cafeteria

at 12:00 pm and left class at approximately 3:00 pm. We went back to the dorm, we put on sportswear and we trained for Foot Ball (soccer).

Saturday was laundry day. There was a laundry half a block from the dorm. We tried to return early so we could go downtown, to the French Quarter, Cafe Du Monde, Lake Pontchartrain, the Zoo, and many other places. On Sunday if there were Soccer games we were going to participate. I was on the team. If it was time for football and basketball, the school took us on the school bus. We would support the sports teams. If there were no sporting events, we went to different places.

Oscar Gomez

“All in all that was the best year of my life.”

I started in the 9th grade at Holy Cross as a 5-day boarder and never knew anyone. This was my first experience away from home in a different environment and it was scary at first.

I hate to say this, but what I remember the most was the discipline level. I remember doing something wrong and getting my ass whipped with a boat ore. It was cut to appropriate size with holes in it. I asked the brother why the holes and he said “So if you fart it won't slow down the ass whipping.” When he hit me I saw Jimi Hendrix playing at Woodstock a year early!



Bill Carnesi getting a present at the dorm's Christmas party.)

(Photo: Bill Carnesi getting a present at the dorm's Christmas party.)

The routine was we'd wake up around 6 am and get ready for breakfast. After breakfast, we'd get ready for school. If you finish breakfast early you had a small window for extra study time. After class there was some free time until dinner around 5 pm. About 6 pm we were back in the dorm to study and complete your homework. 8 pm to 9pm was bath time. Lights out was at 10 pm and you'd better be quiet.

All in all that was the best year of my life. The experience molded me into becoming a great man, husband, and dad. Living in the dorm, with discipline and guidance, help steer me in the right direction.

Bill Carnesi

Salutatorian Speech

May 23, 1971

Thank you.

Mayor Landrieu, Mr. Lyons, Brother Robert, members of the faculty, parents, fellow graduates, ladies and gentlemen: On behalf of the Holy Cross Graduating Class of 1971, I am privileged to extend to you my cordial welcome to this, the school's 92nd commencement ceremony.

As I stand here this afternoon I am beset by the typical mixed emotions of such a moment. Beneath my surging terror at having to face such a mass of humanity lies melancholy nostalgia, an eleventh-hour experience of brotherhood creeping over me. I'm leaving so many people, have so many regrets which override my accomplishments.

But there is a feeling of fulfillment. For anyone really interested in learning, Holy Cross has provided an excellent opportunity to inhale facts as well as to broaden interests through school functions and extracurriculars. In this case, we have gotten back what we've put into it. Let the high school diploma be our symbol of true personal achievement and character growth—of varying worth to everyone who will receive it.

Nevertheless, realism must temper such emotions. I cannot stand here today and hide weeds under a cascade of flowers, sell out my beliefs. Our entire educational system is far from perfect. There is the well-intentioned grading set-up which has, unfortunately, made the passing mark and regimentation more important than the processes of learning and maturing.

Styles of running class have frequently held back teachers in their fighting attempts to educate us. Students are too often treated as inert bodies into which one must inject knowledge, rather than as productive individuals in need of self-expression and fulfillment, not just facts.

We should have a great deal more freedom in our education. Discovery will be much more interesting and meaningful if it is undertaken on one's own initiative. Students'



Les Anticich at the podium

wishes should be stressed: Care about mental and personality development rather than mere physical regulations and restraints. There must be mutual trust. I don't pretend to be an expert in these things and I cannot speak for my entire class, but I think we would eventually come through on our own. If some don't, they cannot and should not be force-fed; it is their choice, their life, not anyone else's.

This year's seniors have received criticism from various quarters. I don't feel inclined to rate graduating classes, but I cannot see where we have been anything less than seniors of past years. There are a lot of hard-working people in our group, and their dedicated efforts should not be degraded.

And, finally, we must look to the future. Here I would like to thank sincerely all those teachers at Holy Cross who freely shared their knowledge with us—especially those who took an interest in us as human beings—and tried to prepare us for this world. I would also like to thank our too often taken-for-granted parents who have done so much to help us thus far in our lives.

I have only one remaining wish this afternoon. It is that we judge our future strivings not in dollars and cents but in terms of our achievements as thinking, feeling individuals; in

terms of true happiness and independence. Let us be strong and pick our own paths through life, ever mindful of our fellow man. And, as in the words of William Shakespeare: "This above all: To thine own self be true, and it must follow, as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man."

Thank you.

Leslie Anticich

"It was like going to college two years early."

It was really fun being a boarder. I boarded in the new dorm, and they were quite nice! I was a five day boarder, but I stayed on weekends during football season.

It was like going to college two years early. I got to meet a lot of good people and make lasting friendships. We did get in trouble every now and again, but it was never anything serious!

One night the captain of the tug boat came a calling. The boat was docked

behind the dorm, and we went

shooting bottle rockets at it. It was funny until the captain came. He was mad, and we were scared! Needless to say, we never shot bottle rockets again.

Breakfast at 7:00 am and off to school until 3:00 pm. I played football so I went to practice at 2:00 pm. We went back to the dorm until supper time. We then had study hall from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. We watched TV until 10:00 pm, and then it was lights out.

Al Waguespack



Photo: Al Waguespack relaxing in the dorm



Danny Kattan and his son Darren '03

Legacy: the Kattans

“As for me, Holy Cross was absolutely, positively the biggest influence in my life in every way.”

There were five members of my family to graduate from Holy Cross: my dad, my uncle, my cousin, me and then Darren, my second son.

While at Holy Cross, Darren '03 met his future business partner, Bret Esquivel, and they formed Immense Networks after graduating Holy Cross and going to LSU. Darren tells me that his biggest influence at Holy Cross was meeting Bret as his interests were in the IT and programming field which HC didn't strongly support at that time. It started when Darren went to a computer club meeting in the 7th grade that Bret organized.

By the 8th grade they decided they were going to start a technology company, so after leaving Holy Cross, he and Bret graduated Computer Science at LSU. When they graduated in 2008, they started working Immense Networks full-time and now it is a leading technology company with clients from Texas to Alabama.

As for me, Holy Cross was absolutely, positively the biggest influence in my life in every way. No doubt!

Danny Kattan

"It's a bit like being in a fraternity except the bonds happen earlier in life."

I mention it all the time whenever people ask where I went to high school especially since my grandfather and Bret's dad ('70) also attended. If I had kids, not sending my son to Holy Cross would be tough. It's a bit like being in a fraternity except the bonds happen earlier in life. I would imagine myself as a parent trusting other parents more if they were also HC alum as a higher likelihood we share similar values and parenting styles to maintain consistency whenever hanging out at friend's houses.

Darren Kattan '03

"I remember having Thursday night pillow fights and afternoons on the river."

In 1965 after hurricane Betsy, the schools were closed in Jefferson. Our family business was booming and my dad said I had to go to boarding school in Mississippi. When I was at the barber shop I ran into Mike Strohmeyer's dad. I asked him where Mike was going to go to school. He said Holy Cross. I went home and asked if I could go there too.

I was in the old dorm which was very drafty. All of the beds (about 40+) had a desk with a pull up top. We had sinks near the window on both sides of the room which was divided into four sections. There was a big light where it intersected.

That's where Brother Stanley would beat you with a 2x4 stick. One time I bent over and looked between my legs and I didn't hear it coming. When he hit me, I fell forward and he grabbed my hair and put me back into position for two more hits. There were lots of rules.

In the morning Brother Stanley would wake up and start moving around. First, he'd turn on a desk lamp; then gave a loud "yawn." His door had a spring on it and slammed regularly. We'd say a prayer, wash up, make the bed, clean our area, sit at our desk for a morning instruction, and have 15 minutes to review any homework before going off to class after inspection.



At the skating rink

I was detained the first week for infractions and wasn't allowed to leave until 6 o'clock Friday. So I took the bus to Canal Street, walked to the Canal Street ferry, and had my dad picked me up from Algiers.

At midyear, we moved to the new dorm where there were four to a room. It was great. My dad would bring me anything that I forgot from home. If I wanted crawfish, he brought me twenty pounds and I would share them with Mr. Deprizio or whoever else was around.

As a boarder, we had a field trip to the Roller Rink down river. And we used to go to the corner grocery (behind the pool) that served cold po-boys .

Brother Stanley quit the brotherhood and married a lady with six kids. He worked at West Jefferson High School. He used to pick up crabs on his way home from West Jeff at my dad's seafood place and speak Italian with him.

I remember having Thursday night pillow fights and afternoons on the river. One time Brother Robert caught me destroying a phone book in back of the main building. I thought I was going to be put out of school, but he laughed and asked if I was OK.

Vincent DiSalvo

Resident students

"The resident students at Holy Cross receive more from their high school training than the day students. Besides the usual process of classroom instruction, boarding students are given the opportunity to develop study habits in over three hours of mandatory study hall. They learn to live away from home; they live with other people of their same age, and they learn to accept the responsibilities that come with living in a community of boys. Also, they are given the chance to develop themselves spiritually by attending mass and frequently receiving the sacraments every morning. Lastly, facilities are readily available for the physical development of the boys." '66 Tiger

Downbeat

By day he thinks in COBOL and RPG; by night he speaks in sharps and flats.

As a Legacy Programmer for the MIS Department of Jefferson Parish Craig Ducote is the only programmer left that knows the "dead languages" of COBOL and RPG. Currently he's assisting in the process of helping to switch the system to a modern computer language.

When he's not working, he picks up his sax and performs with the Northshore Community Orchestra. His musical vocation began while playing sax and clarinet in the Holy Cross band. He continued his performing while attending UNO for two years, later earning an Associate's Degree from Delgado Community College.

Fast forward about 20 years and he picked up his horn again finding another band to play in.

“I didn’t play again until I joined the St Bernard Band in the 90s. After a 20 year layoff the first 2 or 3 weeks were pretty rough – my lips were gone. At the time I had a Clarinet and a Tenor Sax, both left over from high school. When they started playing big band music I bought a Bari Sax,” according to Craig.

He continued with that band until 2005 when St Bernard, as well as the band, was hard hit.



Craig Ducote playing the Sax in 2019

“After Katrina, I ended up in Mandeville. My wife saw an ad in the paper for the Slidell Youth and Community Orchestra looking for new members. The Orchestra had been around since 1987, but didn’t have a very large membership. I joined them because the St Bernard band kind of fell apart after the storm. Members were scattered all over.”

Not long after he ran into a former classmate from UNO. “She told me she was in a big band, the Sentimental Serenaders and they needed a Bari Sax player. So I tried out and became a member of that band. That lasted a few years until the bands organizer lost interest. The lead trumpet player tried to pick up in his place and renamed the band the Doc Holiday Big Band. That didn’t last long and it fell apart too.

“Managing a band is a lot of work, especially when you also have a full time job,” he added.

The Big Bands specialized in swing and jazz, playing mostly weddings and a few special concerts to raise money to buy music. They also played for the annual LSU faculty Christmas party for two years.

Along the way Craig bought 2 Alto Saxes, a Soprano Sax , a C Melody Sax, flute, and pocket sax. He explained that these woodwinds make good substitutes for other instruments that the band needs but don’t have in the orchestra.

“Sometimes we are short of French Horns; an Alto Sax is a good substitute. Sometimes we need an Oboe, the Soprano fills in nicely. And the Tenor fills in for the Trombone. But mostly I play the Bari Sax filling in for the String Bass or Tuba.”



(Craig playing the Sax in 1969)

About two years ago the Slidell Orchestra reorganized after losing state funding and became the North Shore Community Orchestra, a non-profit. Formerly the Slidell Youth & Community Orchestra, the group was a subsidiary of adult education of St Tammany Parish, receiving funding from parish and city. When they stopped funding, it was reorganized as a non-profit. The type of music they play includes classical, jazz, pop, folk, ethnic, traditional, movie themes, and Broadway hits

“We have a Christmas & spring concert. We also just did a Patriot Day concert at

Heritage Park. The city of Slidell booked the LPO but they were too expensive and asked if we’d fill in for them.”

Craig serves as Vice President of the Northshore group. “Becoming Vice President was unexpected. During one rehearsal I was way in a corner of the band room, talking to one of the younger members. The President was talking to the other members about board members. Suddenly I heard him announce that I had been voted Vice President.”

“Two more years till retirement,” says Craig. “I bought an antique truck three years ago as an early retirement present to myself. The truck came from Arizona and is completely rust free. It had been restored about 10 years ago and seldom driven. Even now I only drive it on nice sunny days. I do plan on driving it more often after I’m retired.”

Here’s the link to a video of the Orchestra performing Frosty the Snowman
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJti-WLqAzY>

“The experience of boarding itself, particularly the first year, was both regimented and chaotic.”

I was a 7-day boarder for all three years that I was at Holy Cross. Even though my parents’ home was only a bit more than an hour’s drive from New Orleans, my father was a sugar cane farmer who worked 7 days a week from September through December. So, it was easier on my parents and certainly fine by me to simply stay at school on the weekends, especially during the fall.

The experience of boarding itself, particularly the first year, was both regimented and chaotic. There were of course wake up times, study halls, lights out, and a bunch of rules to be followed. But at the same time, putting approximately 30 fifteen-year-old boys in close quarters usually led to a certain degree of chaos!

During the fall semester of our sophomore year, Frank Galle and I conspired to get moved from the floor housing mostly freshmen and sophomores upstairs to the dorms housing mostly juniors and seniors. That floor was less frenetic than the one with freshmen and sophomores, and it had the added advantage of being run by a prefect (Br. Christian Rogers) who was much more flexible about all things disciplinary!

Our weekdays as boarders were filled with regular school activities. I imagine that the biggest difference between being a boarder and a day student during the school week was simply not having family time in the evenings that most day students likely had.



On weekends the boarders were essentially left to our own devices for camaraderie and entertainment, particularly during sophomore year when most of us could not drive and off-campus privileges were limited. It was during those weekends that I think many boarders bonded as friends, by playing pick-up sports outside, listening to music, or simply idling away time as teenagers are wont to do.

On Sundays, the school cafeteria would be closed and 7-day boarders would be required to dine in the brothers' residence. I always found that to be an interesting but peculiar experience. While we had our share of "hip" brothers - Christian Rogers, Michael Boyd and James Plutte come to mind – there were also some old and weird dudes living in that residence.

Early on during my Holy Cross years, there did seem to be a number of different groups (not to say cliques) that might be labelled, for example, as jocks, honors students, ROTC guys, or boarders. During junior and senior years, however, as I got to know more fellow students and became more involved in extracurricular activities, I actually thought of myself less as a boarding student than simply as a Holy Cross student.

As I reflect all these years later, my sophomore year memories of boarding seem to be clearer in my mind. I suppose that may be because that year contained a convergence of things internal – being a 15-year-old at a new school, in a new environment with all the associated insecurities, anxieties and misgivings – and things external, such as the war in Vietnam, the aftermath of the King and Kennedy assassinations, and general political and social upheaval that was 1968.

As I sometimes say about my only visit to Las Vegas: "I'm glad I went, but don't really want to go back!"

David Falgoust

Ty Yokum is the founder of A-Cajun Grace, a charitable catering service. Specializing in Cajun cuisine, Ty does all the cooking for which there is no charge. The client pays only for the ingredients and their guests are asked to make a donation to the children's charity Grace for All. Ty calls what he does "catering with a purpose."



Keith Treuting recently retired after 30 plus years at Bryan Chevrolet.

Steve Schulz retired from Absolute Logic, a company that he founded 36 years ago.



Frank Galle was honored at a Veteran's Day celebration at his grand children's school.

Tommy Tommasseo was featured on *Love to Eat New Orleans* where his restaurant was referred to as the "Galatoire's of Chalmette." Here's the video:

https://www.facebook.com/lovetoeatnola/videos/2399182480409974/UzpfSTExNjc5OTQwOTY6Vks6MjQ5NTAwNzQyMjDU5MTI0NA/?multi_permalinks=2495007420591244¬if_id=1573696661194279¬if_t=group_activity

Bobby and Cheryl Dawson celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary.

Rocky and Sherry Buras celebrated their 47th anniversary. . . And their daughter Jamie just earned her Master's Degree.



Roni and Debbie Sumich have a new granddaughter, Caroline, who joins her sister Winnie.



Harry Schmidt also has a new grandchild: Maddox

Don and Kim Duplantier's house burned down in an early December fire. The three-story structure in Braithwaite was considered a total loss.

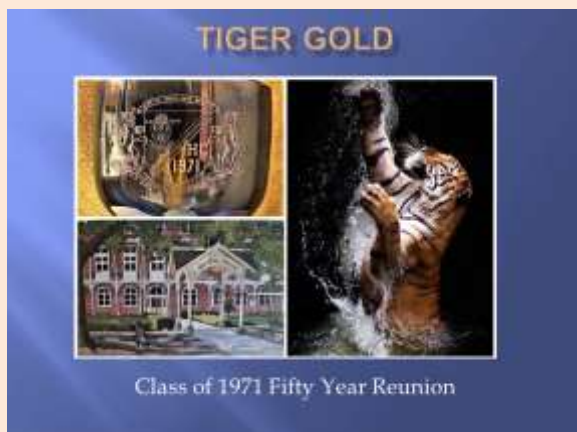


Bobby Wahl's six year odyssey to build a monument to the music venue *A Warehouse* is nearing completion. Dedication of the monument is scheduled for Saturday February 1, 2020 and is located at the corner of Race and Tchoupitouas, four blocks from the original location of the Warehouse. Contact Bobby for details at bob37wahl@yahoo.com



Tiger Yearbooks Now Online:

- Digital copies of the 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1971 yearbooks can be found online at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1C2qJh4DgOaDkH2WjYvSaLzx0qZaZIBW2?usp=sharing>
- Please download them to your device too. Eventually they will be removed from Google Drive.



Hold the Date for our 50th OFFICIAL Holy Cross reunion:

- Our 50th year *OFFICIAL* reunion weekend in 2021 has been released by the school and will be Friday, May 21, 2021 and Saturday, May 22, 2021. Please mark your calendars now. We will graduate again with the seniors from 2021 and walk across the stage to get our golden diplomas.

Soliciting Ideas for Our 50th OFFICIAL Holy Cross Reunion:

- We still need ideas for a venue for the Saturday night of the 50-year reunion and for a Ladies Night while the guys have their get-together on the Friday night.
 - Please send your suggestions/ideas to John Tessitore at KingThoth52@AOL.Com
 - If you are interested in being on the committee also contact John and let him know.
 - Ideas for Ladies Night may be sent to Shirley Tessitore at SMTJT76@aol.com



(The old dorm

“The new dorm was really nice, but the old dorm building had character – it was homey.”

It seemed that we were out of school for a long time after Hurricane Betsy hit. I was ready to return to the dorm as soon as possible to move forward on my new adventure and life.

I knew there were many people using our ‘home’ to stay because they had lost everything.

The school was used as an evacuation center. The old gym was damaged and the Red Cross came in and brought food and set-up cots in the new gym for the evacuees. There was no damage to the third floor of the dorm where I lived.

The routine of living in the dorm was pretty much the same each day. We had the option of going to chapel early in the morning before we went to breakfast in the cafeteria. Then we’d return to the dorm, have morning study hall, than go to class.

After school we had free time than clean-up for supper and another study hall. We usually played football or baseball which was supervised by a prefect. After supper we had free time to call home if we wanted or just burn off some steam.

Then shower and a long study hall. Afterwards that was some TV or free time. Sometimes we had pizza. Then night prayers and bed time just to start it all over again in the morning.

The new dorm was really nice, but the old dorm building had character – it was homey. At night it was like a big sleepover.

The school took on a whole different light at night and people who didn't stay at the school missed a lot

The oak trees were most impressive. During the day they were just trees, but at night they were my rock. When it got dark and I was walking to the cafeteria or back to the dorm the Oaks made me feel safe because they were so big and strong and protected our HC home.

Being a boarder for the 7th and 8th grade made me grow up, taught me self-reliance, and what was required to become a better student and person. Boarding provided me with structure and purpose. It taught me how to study, be independent, and be on my own.

Danny Simpson

“The brothers had a keg on tap and we would talk about getting a brew when no one was looking.”

It was great fun being a boarder. We saved lots of time by not having to go back and forth to our homes daily. Instead we would play indoor ball, basketball or football. Each evening after dinner we would have study hall for 2 hours.

Although I was a 5 day I did stay over weekends during fall practice my senior year and for demerits once.

If you were too noisy you received demerits. Too many demerits and you stayed the weekend working some awful job for one of the Brothers. Once I had to clean out an old book closet in the huddle. It took all day Saturday and half Sunday to get it done.



A lounge area in the new dorm

One of the things I remember was about the tugs on the Mississippi. They knew our dorm was next to the levee and they would park on the shore and shine those bright spotlights in the windows at 1:00 am.

Those spots would light up the room like sunshine and wake everyone up. This would happen a few times and then we would retaliate with bottle rockets fired from our floor's vacuum cleaner tube. We did this a few times until the police showed up. Apparently one of the tugs was pushing a barge of something flammable and as a result we never had any more issues with spotlights.

Meals were at the brothers house which was an experience all its own. . Breakfast was great – all the food was great. The brothers had a keg on tap and we would talk about getting a brew when no one was looking. Unfortunately the Brothers kept the tap pretty busy.

Steve Ferrer

Family Ties

Many of our classmates had older brothers at Holy Cross. Can you identify whose brothers these are? Hint – one of the guys in the photo was held back a year and wound up in the class with his brother (neither of whom stayed the course). Another didn't have a brother in our class, but had one in the class with about 5 of our little brothers. Answers appear at the bottom of the page.

Class of '70 - Panel A



Panel B

Class of '69 Panel B



Class of '69 – Panel A

Class of '68 – Panel A



Class of '68 - Panel B



Class of '67 and '66



“Dorm life did offer a sort of bubble from the outside world.”

I was a 5 day boarder although I stayed over the weekend several times. I was extremely grateful to be able to go home to Edgard come Friday afternoon, and my heart ached for those whose families were too far away to be with on the weekend.

I did not want to leave Edgard, my cousins, and friends to go to a boarding school; however, my father and his brothers - except for the youngest - had gone to a boarding school in Mississippi (St. Stanislaus). My uncle Roland, my dad's youngest brother, had gone to boarding school at Holy Cross and so it seemed sort of a compulsive destiny type thing that I go to board at Holy Cross.

It took a while for me to acclimate. I was country raised, so to speak, and could walk from my parents' house to go fishing or hunting (which I greatly enjoyed). My father had a cow that he milked and a big garden, although by the time I went to high school, we gave up milking the cow. New Orleans, dorm life and the new people were very different. Only gradually did I come to enjoy this new environment.

Looking back, being a boarder in an all-boys school back in 1969, '70, and '71 was unique in a few ways. We saw very little television and I never read a newspaper and was not so affected by the media of the day. I was spared much of the Vietnam War press drama. For example, when the Kent State incident occurred I remember the super-sized emotions of my classmates in comparison to my own.

Dorm life did offer a sort of bubble from the outside world. I enjoyed my room setup: four to a room, with a bunk bed, closet and desk below. We had study times, good prefects with the result that high school academics at Holy Cross became easy and very comfortable for me.

Cold and dry winter days are rare in Louisiana, but when they come, they bring with them the opportunity to play with static electricity. In the dorm, upon entering from the west door, one walks the entire length of the dorm down the hall past all of the dorm rooms, eventually arriving at the sort of living room where there is a TV.

Upon arriving one Sunday night, I walked down that hall, making sure to rub my shoes against the hall rug, insuring that the long walk and hard rub would generate the greatest static charge my little body could store. I finally arrived in the TV room wondering who it would be that I would get to share this with, and there he was, sitting in the dark, except for the light given off by the TV: Brother Harold Ehlinger and his bald head.

Man . . . It was a really cold and dry day, and past experience had taught me that there was a super special charge that was ready to be displayed at the tip of my finger, but... Brother Harold!?!?

I had to quickly make a decision because static charges of the kind just generated don't last long. I could not pass the opportunity, and so I eased up to Brother Harold, him never knowing my presence, slowly approaching his beautiful bald head, still wondering if indeed I would. . . and sure enough - - POW! A giant spark shot from the tip of my finger to the skin of his head!



Randy Caire on the track team

Now thoughts run through our minds quickly, and my first thought was RUN!!!! But the spark was too great and I was worried it would kill him. So when he jumped up from the chair he was sitting in and looked to see who it was that almost killed him, I was there with some sort of expression of "I am so sorry for doing this Brother Harold". He did not retaliate and I never did that again.

Anyways , I remember, mostly during winter time, some of us getting up very early (maybe 5 am) and turning on the showers to their hottest setting, than sitting against the wall in the shower stall with the shower spray in front of us and basically turning the shower into a sauna.

We would leave the dorm to go to the cafeteria, have breakfast, back to the dorms for study time. We had some set morning study times that I can't precisely remember.

Afterwards, we joined our day students until afternoon, when we returned to the dorm, got ready for afternoon athletics (football, soccer, track), afterwards, back to the dorm, washed, over for supper in the cafeteria, back to dorm, where we had evening study time.

Afterwards we could shower if you hadn't already done so, have another period of study time; but eventually, we had to turn off all lights and go to bed. I can't remember the exact times, but I do remember that I often wanted to stay up studying more than we would be allowed.

We did not have a phone that we could use, except for a pay phone, located outside the dorm. There was one per dorm Hall, so if you wanted to call someone - your girlfriend for example - you needed to have a bunch of coins and cold weather gear, if you were calling in the winter; and wait in line, sometimes, depending upon how chatty some guys were.

Mail time was also a super special event as some of us had girls that we were writing too, or family and loved ones, and letters were like little jewels.

Randy Caire

"Built many long term friendships . . . "

In my first year of Boarding and coming from a small town, I hated it. But by time my Senior year rolled around four years later, I wouldn't change that experience for anything! Built many long term friendships and brotherhoods with fellow borders.

Bobby Dawson

"It was a humbling experience and I met some very interesting people."

In 1969, in the 8th grade, I had a football accident that put me in a body cast for 6 weeks. I boarded and the brothers came and taught me after school had ended. It was a humbling experience and I met some very interesting people. During that time I met many nice Central American students. It was a great experience. Randall Poche (Lutcher, LA) our QB on the football team had to leave his senior year because the boarding had closed.

Danny "Dutch" Vorenkamp '74

Cripple Creek

Elevation on that path was approximately 9,500 feet. Whew, you lose your breathe just saying that! A bit higher than the twin bridges!

Interestingly, Cripple Creek, Colorado had a thriving population (20,000) due to the discovery of gold in the 1890's. Now its 2,000 residents are primarily connected to legalized gambling and mining.

In fact, due to the price of gold, there are several active gold mines in the area.

An interesting story, a few years ago my wife and I, while hiking, were stopped by mining employees because of blasting in the area.

At first I thought they were kidding, but we



heard the blasts and proceeded to do a 180 degree turn back to safety.

The hazards of hiking in Colorado!

Bert Brocato

Residence Center Aim: Home Away From Home

By Keith Frederic

Holy Cross Bulletin

May 1, 1970

“There’s no place like home,” so the old song goes, and the Brothers of Holy Cross are well aware of that fact. They do their best, however, for the 150 resident students at Holy Cross.



“The aim of any boarding school,” says Brother Berchmans Gibbons, resident student director at Holy Cross, “is to try to give the same to the student as he would get in a good Christian home.

“The duty of Christian parents,” continues Brother Berchmans, “is to

educate their children spiritually, intellectually, physically and socially. When they send their boys here, they delegate that same duty to us.”

Several elements are combined to formulate the efforts toward achievement of the Boarding Program's aim. The contemporary, four-story Student Residence Hall, for example, is a prime asset to the aim. Previous to its construction, the Program was at a disadvantage.

"In past years," explains Brother Berchmans, "there were large dormitories in the old buildings each having from 50 to 75 students with only one prefect. Now there are only about 20 boys to a hall, still with one prefect, allowing for more supervision and guidance, and greater assistance from the prefect to the students."

The Student Residence is sub-divided into seven halls, some bearing the names of generous contributors to the Development Program. Each is manned by an always able prefect (often an HC Brother) who provides the needed presence of a "father-figure," while the students are occupying Holy Cross as their "home away from home."

Mrs. Niceta Gunder, a registered nurse, also contributes to the "homey" atmosphere which the Boarding Program strives to maintain. In the well-equipped clinic and infirmary, located on the bottom floor of the west wing of the Student Residence,, she comforts and cares for the sick



1New dorm under construction

resident students.

The most important part of the Boarding Program, however, is the boarding students themselves. "They come from various countries in Central and South America," says Brother Berchmans. "We have boys from many different states, but most are from Louisiana and are five-day boarders."

Even though these students make up only 1/7 of the total student body, their satisfaction with the school should be the greatest, since, through the successful efforts of the holy Cross Boarding Program, they have been able to find another place they can call "home."

Family Ties: Who's Who

Class of '66/'67: Murphy, Vanek, Carlock, Wattigney

Class of '68:

Panel A: Goodson, Vinturella, Reuther, Hergert

Panel B: Mazorolli, Messa, Sumich

Class of '69

Panel A: Bull, Colomb, Kokemor, Laciura

Panel B: Lociano, Melara, Romig, Moll

Class of 70:

Panel A: Byrne, Cullota, Franz, Jemison

Panel B: Kruse, Maddocks, Spitale, Steel

The boarding program had a rich tradition and earliest mention that could be found was in an advertisement in 1883. Board and tuition was \$10 per month – payable in advance. But they'd teach you German and French at no extra charge!

EDUCATION.
ST. ISIDORE COLLEGE,
 Corner PETERS and REYNES STREETS,
 Third District, New Orleans.
 This Commercial Institute begins its session on September 1. Boarders and day scholars are admitted at any time of the year. French and German form no extra charge. Terms: Board and tuition \$10 per month, in advance. For catalogue apply to the Rev. President.
 1883—Su We Fr 2m

They doubled the tuition 5 years later. Their new marketing pointed out that the campus was “far removed from contaminating influences.”

ST. ISIDORE'S COLLEGE.
 The advertisement of St. Isidore's College, located on Dauphine street, in the Third district, appears in this issue of the Picayune. Board and tuition in St. Isidore is only \$20 per month, and the course of study is thorough and practical. Rev. J. Scherer, C. S. O., is president and his reputation as an educator is second to none. As the cut in the advertisement shows St. Isidore is a beautiful spot; and while it is far removed from contaminating influences, it is easy of access, being on the line of street cars and fronting on the river.

Patricio Duenas

There was a graduation exercise in 1902 that highlighted two boarding students, who were brothers, from Mexico.

PATRICIO AND PEDRO DUENAS
 are the sons of Mr. J. P. Duenas, a leading banker of the City of Mexico. They received their early education in the city. In 1899 they entered Holy Cross College, and, although they were unfamiliar with the English language, so well did they apply themselves that they have become very fluent. Master Patricio has won several medals for proficiency in music. The two young gentlemen have decided to follow in the footsteps of their father.



PATRICIO DUENAS.

Studying for exams by enjoying a date.

Students All One Big Happy Family

By MILDRED PORTEOUS BALL

Cries of "I'll get it!" as the phone rings; a body lying horizontally on the couch; a girl primping for a date, and two boys crouched over books studying for a test. A typical home? Yes, in a fashion, for these are the sights one sees upon entering several dormitories, or winter homes, of students in parochial schools in New Orleans.

Five schools in New Orleans take boarding students. The largest of these is Holy Cross which is run by the Brothers of the Holy Cross. This school at 4950 Dauphine has 180 boarding students all housed in a beautiful new four-story building overlooking the Mississippi River. There are 110 five-day boarders, from around the New Orleans area, and 70 seven-day boarders from as far away as Peru and Libya.

At home a boy may have one brother, as a roommate, but at Holy Cross each boy has three other friends in his room. Three buddies to laugh with, quarrel with, borrow razor blades from, and to try to get dates from. Or, if his roommate doesn't have an extra blade or girl, a boy can always go down the hall to one of the other seven rooms that are on each hall.

When not studying or solving the world's problems in his room, a boy can journey down to the lounge and watch television or play pool. Each floor has two lounges, one for each 28 boys. Here, after their compulsory study hall, the boys come to play cards and to eat, a favorite past time of any

red-blooded normal male. Another favorite pastime is dating. The boys meet girls through dances that they hold. The Latin Americans, particularly enjoy these because they arrange parties with other schools which have Spanish speaking girls. Some of the boys have cars, but most of the students use public transportation to go on dates. Never underestimate the power of a boy in love; it's a long bus ride out to Holy Cross!

Ursuline

One of their favorite places to meet girls is Ursuline, which also has many Latin American students among its 56 boarders at 2635 State st. At Ursuline there is no particular curfew set up for dates. The school follows the parents' wishes on this matter and, as at home, each girl builds up her own reliability, and checks with the person in authority each time she wishes to go out. The Latin American girls, according to custom in their country, ordinarily do not date until they are 15 years old.

For those who might not have

When the new dorm opened in 1968, Millie Ball of the Times Picayune wrote a feature article about it.

She also cited four other local schools that had similar programs: Ursuline, Annunciation, St. Maurice, and Infant Jesus Boarding School for Boys.



Eugene Niemierzycki from Columbia,
Ralph Lozano from Mexico, and Carlos
Wong from Nicaragua.



And
from
1902
Pedro
Duenas

The Holy Cross Class of 1971 Web
Page can be found at:

<https://hubhobbyshop.com/holy-cross-new-orleans/>

The Holy Cross Class of 1971 You Tube
Channel can be found at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqN2_US_UeWLPJT8N7dpTyA/videos?view_as=subscriber

Flashback

The Leaf Project ~ ~

Doak Wattigney, Gary Kirchenheuter and Rene Bull display their leaf collections for a 7th grade science project in Tony Spatafora's class. As I recall, Spatafora was the only teacher that had an official theme song (although I'm sure he didn't know about it!) Went something like "It's Uncle Tony time . . .

I remember doing this project, picking up some primo oak leaves on Franklin Avenue. I still collect leaves from my yard, but they wind up in a compost pile



instead of on a poster board.

The Two Tenors ~ ~

Jerome and Anthony Laciura performing with the Glee Club. Anthony went on to perform with the Metropolitan Opera.



End of the Boarding Program ~ ~

In the fall of 1970, there were 150 boarders. Fall of 1972 saw the launch of the Middle School and the demise of the boarding program, which had fallen to 43 students.

HC Boarding Program Ends

Holy Cross will discontinue its boarding program effective at the close of the current school year, announced Br. Robert Hampton, principal.

"Since the time we have erected our boarding facility," said Br. Robert, "the number of residents has decreased from a high of 160 boarders in 1967 to the present enrollment of 43. Next year we would anticipate only about 20 boys."

Br. Robert said it was the school's hope that no student who wanted to return to Holy Cross would be prevented from doing so by the termination of boarding. "Fortunately, most of our non-senior boarders will be able to return to Holy Cross as day students next year," he concluded.